THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) have so far appointed 98 and 28 conversion agents respectively, at different locations.

(b) Raw materials are supplied to be conversion agents as per agreed conversion rations and depending upon the availability from time to time and not on an annual basis. The following quantities of rerollables had been supplied by SAIL and RINIL to their conversion agents during the current year;

| *Producers* | *Quantity supplied in 'ooo tonnes* | *Period* |
|---|---|---|
| (i) SAIL | 71 | April-September, 1991 |
| (ii) RINL | 53 | April-October, 1991. |

(c) Converted products are supplied to Government Departments/Undertakings and other actual users as per the prescribdcon procedure.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Conversion agents are appointed by RINIL through open tender system. Tender documents are scrutinised by a Committee whose recommendations are approved by the Chairman-cum-Managing Director or the Executive Director (Commercial), RINL.

The Zonal Managers of 10 different Zones have been delegated powers by SAIL for appointing conversion agents based on the competitive tenders.

The eligibility conditions for appointment of conversion agents include the following:-

(i) registration with the concerned sponsoring authorities;

(ii) ISI/BIS certificates;

(iii) technical capability;

(iv) physical facilities;

(v) financial standing; and

(vi) market standing.

[*Translation*]

**Return of Indians to Gulf Countries**

2405. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians who have returned to Kuwait and other Gulf countries so far, country-wise; and

(b) the number of Indians working in Kuwait at present?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) It is estimated that about 60,000 of our nationals have so far gone back to Kuwait. For Iraq the figure is about, 120. There was no evacuation from any other country in the Gulf region.

(b) The number of Indians presently working in Kuwait is estimated to be 63,000.